

ON THE DIAGNOSIS OF *ARAMIDES CAJANEAE AVICENNIAE* STOTZ, 1992

Described from the mangroves of coastal Brazil in southern São Paulo State, *Aramides cajaneae avicenniae* Stotz, 1992 was characterized as having "the back Plumbeous . . . and occiput with brown wash much reduced and greyer or absent" (Stotz 1992, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 112: 231–234). Examining 73 specimens of the nominate form in the Museu Nacional (MN), Rio de Janeiro, and in the Museu de História Natural "Capão da Imbuia" (MHNCI), Curitiba–Paraná, from different parts of Brazil, we found that the coloration of the head of *A. c. cajaneae* varied from a strong brown distributed over the entire upper head to a gradually restricted and duller brown which is limited to the neck, culminating in a few specimens with a pure grey pattern similar to that of the type of *A. c. avicenniae* (deposited in the Museu de Zoologia of the University of São Paulo, MZUSP 67212).

Three of the analysed specimens of *A. c. cajaneae* do not show any trace of brown on the head (Pará, MN 25131; "Distrito Federal" [=Rio de Janeiro], MN 28571; Espírito Santo, MN 25133, MN 26662). Possibly one specimen from Mato Grosso do Sul (MN 20113) can also be added to this list, as it is apparently a juvenile in the process of substitution of the brown feathers of the head for grey ones. For this reason we suggest that the diagnosis of *A. c. avicenniae* should be restricted to the coloration of the back.

A female (MHNCI 187) confirms the presence of *A. c. avicenniae* in the state of Paraná (Caiobá–Passagem, 25°52'S, 48°36'W, municipality of Guaratuba). An unexamined specimen from Rio de Borrachudo that Stotz (*loc. cit.*) thought belonged to *A. c. avicenniae* was the only previous indication of its occurrence in Paraná.

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